

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 304673

EXDIS - FOR AMBASSADOR FROM ASSTSEC ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, SA, IS

SUBJECT: ISRAELI REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON US ARMS
CAPTURED FROM TERRORISTS

1. SUMMARY: THE ISRAELIS HAVE CAPTURED TWO PALESTINIAN
TERRORISTS CARRYING US MUNITIONS WHICH WERE CONSIGNED TO
SAUDI ARABIA. WE WISH TO ENLIST SAUDI ASSISTANCE IN AN
INVESTIGATION OF THIS MATTER.

2. ON AUGUST 2 THE ISRAELIS CAPTURED TWO PALESTINIAN
TERRORISTS ATTEMPTING TO CROSS THE DEAD SEA IN A RUBBER
RAFT. IN THEIR POSSESSION WERE 7 GRENADES AND 23 DEMOLI-
TION CHARGES ALL OF US MANUFACTURE. THROUGH INTERPOL THE
ISRAELIS HAVE ASKED OUR HELP IN TRACING THE MUNITIONS
SPECIFICALLY TO WHOM THEY WERE ULTIMATELY CONSIGNED.
INTERPOL US HAS ESTABLISHED THAT THE 7 GRENADES BELONGED
TO 72,000 LOT, 22,000 OF WHICH HAVE GONE TO US MARINE BASES
IN THE CONTINENTAL US. NO THEFTS FROM THESE MARINE STOCKS
HAVE BEEN REPORTED BUT A COMPREHENSIVE INVENTORY OF THESE

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STOCKS IS IMPOSSIBLE BECAUSE SOME HAVE ALREADY BEEN EX-

PENDE IN TRAINING. THE REMAINING 50,000 GRENADES WENT TO SAUDI ARABIA. (LOT LS-56-675, SOLD UNDER FMS CASE UIC, SHIPPED IN JANUARY 1975.) THE 23 DEMOLITION CHARGES WERE

PART OF A LOT OF 76,000, ALL OF WHICH WENT TO SAUDI ARABIA. (LOT LOP-2-42, SOLD UNDER FMS CASE UEG, SHIPPED IN SEPTEMBER 1971.) REASONABLE ASSUMPTION IS THEREFORE THAT THE GRENADES CAPTURED BY THE ISRAELIS WERE ALSO PART OF THE LOT SHIPPED TO SAUDI ARABIA.

3. WE INTEND TO MAKE THE FOREGOING AVAILABLE TO INTERPOL, WHICH WILL PASS IT TO THE ISRAELIS. WHEN WE DO SO HOWEVER WE WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO SAY THAT THE SAUDIS ARE CO-OPERATING FULLY WITH US IN THE INVESTIGATION THUS REDUCING POSSIBILITY OR AT LEAST REDUCING HARMFUL EFFECT OF ANY PUBLICITY.

4. YOU SHOULD, THEREFORE, APPROACH THE SAUDIS AT WHATEVER LEVEL YOU DEEM APPROPRIATE AND AFTER MAKING KNOWN TO THEM THE FACTS IN PARA 2 ABOVE, REQUEST THEIR FULL COOPERATION IN INVESTIGATING THE MATTER. YOU SHOULD ALSO MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS: (A) THE USG WISHES TO MAKE KNOWN TO THE SAG THE FACTS OF THIS CASE BECAUSE WE BELIEVE IT INVOLVES A CRIMINAL ACT OF THEFT FROM SAUDI MILITARY STORES.

(B) BECAUSE THE TERRORISTS WERE CAPTURED CROSSING THE DEAD SEA, WE SUSPECT THE CAPTURED MUNITIONS MAY HAVE BEEN STOLEN FROM THE SAUDI BRIGADE IN JORDAN. WE ASSUME THE SAG WILL WISH TO INVESTIGATE THIS ASPECT IN SOME DETAIL.

(C) WE INTEND TO INFORM INTERPOL OF THE FACTS OF THE MATTER BUT WOULD NOT WISH TO DO SO WITHOUT ASSURING THEM THAT THE SAG IS ASSISTING US IN OUR INVESTIGATION. KISSINGER

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